



DrivingChange

NETWORK

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Register for HE MAHI TIKAANA TODAY



MONTHLY PROVIDER WORKGROUPS

If you are currently working in a community programme and would like to contribute in one of the relevant groups below, please join us.

- **By Māori for Māori**

First Thursday of each month at 9.30am
[BM4M Teams Link](#)

- **Best Practise Guidelines**

Second Wednesday of each month at 8.30am
[BPG Teams Link](#)

- **Employment & Education**

Third Monday of each month at 1.30pm
[EEG Teams Link](#)

- **Advocacy & Comms**

Third Thursday of each month at 9.30am
[GAC Teams Link](#)

- **Migrant & Former Refugee**

Last Thursday of each month at 9.30am
[MWG Teams Link](#)

- **By Pacific for Pacific**

First Monday of each month at 11am
[BP4P Teams Link](#)

Contact Us:

Wendy Robertson
National Director
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e. wendy@drivingchange.nz

Despite the recent government elections that limited advocacy opportunities, the past three months have remained incredibly busy.

Normally most of our interactions are via online meeting, so the past two months have been a nice change, travelling the country to meet with our membership face to face. I enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and meeting new people who have just joined our sector. I look forward to seeing more of you at our monthly workgroup meetings.

In the past month, we have completed the evaluation of the Driving Change Network, our systems change methods and achievements to date. We are very proud of the results of this evaluation and highlight it further in this newsletter.

September saw the election of some new members to our Steering group after some of our past volunteers stood down due to work commitments. We would like to extend our gratitude to Jaron, Tracey, Cheree, Patricia, Peter, and Arlouse, who stepped down due to work commitments. Their time, passion, and contributions to the network were greatly appreciated, and we know they will continue to be passionate supporters.

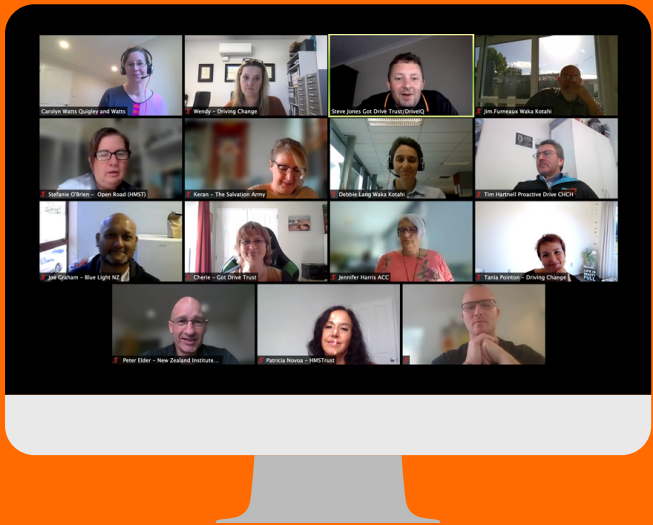
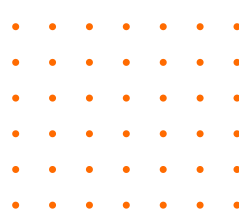
We are thrilled to welcome Abdulah, Henry, Jonelle, Angelene, Mark, and Renata to our well-represented Steering Group. Their experience, knowledge, and geographic representation will undoubtedly be valuable assets to the team.

As New Zealand is entering a time with a new government, we will be working to continue the good progress we have achieved over the past three years, and hope that the National led government will support the systemic changes that we need to make our licensing system better.



Our concerns about the retest fee changes in October persist. We plan to discuss the repercussions of this policy with the new minister as soon as possible. It's evident that this policy is impacting the sector, addressing this is a priority.

DRIVING CHANGE NETWORK



Monthly Online Working Groups

The work of Work Groups and the Steering committee are vital to maintaining the direction and advocacy efforts of the Driving Change Network.

Groups meet once per month for one hour via teams meetings. As well as collectively raising ideas and issues for the improvement of the licensing system, groups also provide peer support and advice to each other. Working groups are formed based on area of expertise and interest as follows;



Employment & Education in Schools

Focusing on advocating for driver education to be provided in schools to ensure young people are work ready when they leave. We are looking for support from those who can provide anecdotal support or evidence and a collective voice for the need to provide driving education and training in education facilities for those who are unable to access it on their own. Group meets on the third Monday of every month at 3.30pm.

Best Practise Training

Focusing on supporting the development of best practise programme development achieving skilled, competent fully licensed students. Group meets the second Wednesday of each month at 8.30am



By Māori for Māori

Programmes and methods that work best for whanau and issues that uniquely affect Māori on their licensing journey. This ropu meets the first Thursday of each month at 9am

Govt Relations & Communication Strategy

This group reviews collective issues from groups and approves the government relations and communication strategy for the network. They meet on the third Thursday of the month at 9.30



Multicultural Workgroup

Supporting groups working with migrants or refugees, working to break down the barriers they experience and advocate for funding support and resources that can better support these new New Zealanders on their licensing journey. .Group meets on the last Thursday of each month at 9.30am

By Pacific for Pacific

Supporting Pasifika as they navigate the graduated licence system, or issues affecting Pasifika migrants trying to convert their licences to a NZ one. Group meets the first Monday of each month at 8.30am



Meeting links and times can be found on the front page of this newsletter and also by clicking the headings above.



HANDY TIPS AND TOOLS

DRIVE Community Toolkit



The DRIVE community toolkit is a FREE resource and a great tool to have in your Kete to enable you to cater for all types of learners with different learning styles.

They can be ordered from here -

<https://community.drive.govt.nz/resource-hub/resource/drive-community-toolkit>

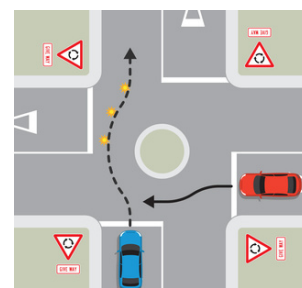
Additional to this toolkit, which contains, games, role plays, activities and guides is the DRIVE Go app, which can be downloaded for free from the app store or google play. This resource provides driving plans, tracks progress and practise hours and demonstration videos to share with your students prior to them practising the maneuvers.

<https://drive.govt.nz/drive-go>

Learner Licence Course Resource

The Waka Kotahi Education team have made all of the graphics from the DRIVE programme and the Road Code available for those of you who run group sessions and want to make up your own power point presentations. Super handy for those of you who are doing your own language translations. These graphics can be **downloaded FREE** at this link.

<https://community.drive.govt.nz/resource-hub/resource/drive-community-toolkit>



Driven for Success Board Game

Another resource in the form of a board game. Developed for younger learners and families. Great for getting everyone thinking about the road code. Can be purchased from Whitcoulls or Paperplus or the online shop link below for around \$50 per game.

<https://www.drivenforsuccess.shop/shop>

Note: Driving Change is not endorsing or recommending this product - just highlighting options available.

Cruisin with Chrissy

Developed by Hawkes Bay Police Officer Chris Leppien who is also a qualified driving instructor. This website is full of simple demonstration videos and tip sheets to support people learning to drive. Chrissy is passionate about getting drivers fully licensed and encourages people to use and share this free website and resources.

<https://cruisinwithchrissy.weebly.com/>

Note: Driving Change is not endorsing or recommending this product - just highlighting options available.



Right Car Safety Features



Just published are a [new series of videos](#) about key crash avoidance features to look for in a vehicle on Rightcar.govt.nz. The videos highlights that we can all make mistakes when driving and that's where crash avoidance features can help - by alerting or assisting drivers. Each video takes you through how different crash avoidance feature works, including Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) and lane-keeping systems.

We have a limited number of the old Road Codes available to members. Great price - FREE

Email info@drivingchange.nz



Driving Change Network Evaluation

Since our inception when a group of Philanthropic funders gathered a group from the driver licensing sector to explore the system and a pathway for change, we have made significant progress.

After four years on this journey, we engaged the Centre for Social Impact to evaluate Driving Change Network. Our organisation structure, systems change work and progress to date.

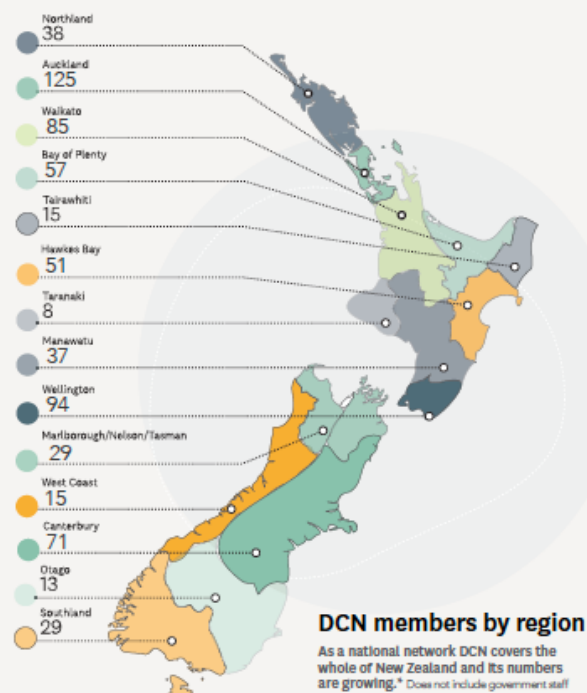
We are proud to share highlights below and a link to the full report.

[CSI Evaluation Here](#)

Evaluation Key Insights

- 1 The Driving Change Network is a platform for community providers, NGOs, and others to advocate for change in the licensing system and remove barriers and inequalities. The goal is to provide equal access to driver licensing, which is often seen as the key to life's opportunities.
- 2 DCN has achieved positive change for communities in New Zealand by focusing on systems change at a policy and operational level.
- 3 DCN's constellation operating and governance model allows for shared power and contributions from all, leading to real progress. Workgroups provide feedback to identify necessary positive changes around the Motu.
- 4 DCN's original goals, including equitable access to training and licensing, driver education in schools, and a Te Tiriti reflective system, are being considered as part of the government's Driver Licensing Improvement program, as the network continues to expand.
- 5 DCN has made significant progress, but further work is needed to fully implement the commitments to change that have been achieved.

DCN Membership and Reach

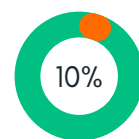


Who is Involved



Community Providers & NGO's, Instructors

Members working to assist learners in overcoming obstacles to obtaining a license.



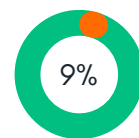
Iwi/Māori providers

Iwi or Māori driving schools and health providers delivering by māori for māori licensing solutions



Education & Employment

Education and industry reps aiming to equip students with vocational licensing skills to improve their employment opportunities.



Govt Agencies

Staff and advisers responsible for driver licensing in New Zealand.

Mobile Theory Testing for Learner Licensing

While traveling around Motu for regional hui, one recurring request was the ability to access to on-site mobile learner licensing for community providers. We have reached out to VTNZ and AA mobile theory testing, with both groups happy to work with our providers. We are thrilled to announce the following opportunities to you all.

Expressions of Interest

Acknowledging that the branch environment may not always cater well to our learners, and that some test sites may not be able to accommodate large groups wanting to sit their Learner Licence theory tests, the Driving Change Network are looking to coordinate community testing opportunities for providers.

This will allow smaller community providers who may not have the minimum numbers required to benefit from this mobile service the same as large providers.

Below are some proposed dates;

Area	Week
Rotorua	18th December, 2023
Southland	15th January, 2024
Ashburton & Christchurch	22nd January, 2024
Kaikoura, Nelson & Tasman	29th January, 2024
Palmerston North	5th February, 2024
Hauraki Plains	12th February, 2024
Hamilton and Rotorua	19th February, 2024

If you would like to use this service, please email wendy@drivingchange.nz with your approx number of learners and suggested venue details.



Portable Theory Testing

Portable Theory Testing offers flexibility and convenience for group theory testing.

Book your preferred testing date, time, approx group size, and location.

The portable unit arrives fully equipped with everything from the tests, eye screening and license photos can be completed in one go at your location.

You pay upfront with a range of payment options to accommodate your organisation.

You can book your own date depending on availability with the VTNZ portable theory testing team through [this link](#).

If this coordinated testing approach does not work for you, you can book your own date depending on availability through the **AA Mobile Learner Licensing Testing** team. Enquiries about booking this service can be made by emailing dadministration@aa.co.nz





L-R Makareta, Toni & Angela

Education Advisors

The Education Advisor roles have been stood up as part of the Ministry of Social Development and Waka Kotahi bid established back in July 2022. Our focus for the next three to six months is on identifying and engaging community providers who provide Road safety education/learning content. With the purpose of this engagement being to:

- Build on relationships with the wonderful Regional Advisors
- Explore and understand what resources are being used e.g. DRIVE, versus own material
- Understanding what is working well and if there are gaps that we can assist with
- Map resource availability, by community/location to identify gaps in delivery

Our team understands that there is some amazing Driver training teaching happening in communities and our roles are designed to help capture that and also how to support where needed.

Contact details and the regions that this team cover can be found here.

[Advisors Contact Details](#)

Budget 22 Positions

All seven Regional Advisors and three Education Advisors funded from the Budget 2022 bid are now employed and working to support regional providers across the country.

But just what do they do? We asked Ben Dirkze, Business Lead – Regional Partnerships Safer Drivers

Regional Advisors



Regional Advisors aim to provide accessible and supportive driver licensing solutions to communities. They engage with local stakeholders, build relationships, and develop action plans to improve the graduated driver licensing system.

Their first priority is to work with community providers with MSD contracts, to determine how increased capability and capacity operates best for those individuals the provider supports e.g. increased practical and theory testing services

Additionally, the Advisors will seek to understand local issues, gaps and future opportunities, building broader relations with regional influencers and stakeholders to develop Regional Action Plans

Regional Visits



Over the past two months, our team has been travelling across New Zealand, visiting various regions to connect with our members. It was an excellent opportunity to meet with you all in person, rather than meeting during our regular online team's workgroups.



We had the pleasure of hosting twelve regional hui and were thrilled to have had more than three hundred attendees in total, including many first-time Driving Change Network event-goers. We hope that you found the event worthwhile.



The networking opportunities were well received, and it was inspiring to see everyone share their contacts and support each other to improve the sector. Despite coming from different regions, the shared challenges and successes were similar, highlighting the importance of working together and speaking up with a united voice to bring about systemic changes for the sector.

Some of the positive feedback we received included:

- The joy providers get from the look on clients faces when they pass.
- Appreciation for the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals.
- Recognition of the importance of the Driving Change Network's work
- Changing Community perception to licensing allowing unlicensed adults to feel comfortable to sit their tests.



Some of the continued barriers being experienced around the country are:

- Increased wait times for both theory and practical tests due to resits.
- Witnessing the high number of wasted test times due to no shows.
- Unable to access financial support for in school licensing programmes.
- Shortage of i endorsed instructors, and the length of time it takes to get on a course if you do want to train as an instructor.
- Loopholes and difficulties with the Oversea Licence conversion process that sees some unsafe/unlicensed drivers on our roads because there are too many barriers to doing the right thing.



Our new Waka Kotahi Regional and Education Advisors joined us to meet those providers working in their regions, it was great for everyone to be able to connect kanohi ki te kanohi and to have a regional contact to be able to go to for support.

Thank you to everyone for taking the time to attend our regional hui. We look forward to continuing to work with you all to make a positive impact in the sector.





Learning, information and advice for Autistic people,
their families and communities.

www.altogetherautism.org.nz

**ALTOGETHER
AUTISM
TAKIWATANGA**

This quarter we welcome **Altogether Autism** who have joined the Driving Change Network to support learner drivers irrespective of what barriers they have on their driver licensing journey.



Expand Your Knowledge

Become an informed and empathetic ally for autistic individuals and their families.

There is so much information on the web about autism, that you would never be able to view it all. Some of the information that is accessed online can be unreliable or can cause undue upset to autistic people or their family.

The Altogether Autism team have specialist training and knowledge in autism and have reliable and up-to-date sources for information and lived experience. They can find quality, credible and proven information that will answer the specific questions you have about autism. **Their service is free.**

FREE INFORMATION SERVICE

- Personalised information packs: [information-hub/request](http://www.altogetherautism.org.nz/information-hub/request)
- About complex information requests: [complex-information-requests](http://www.altogetherautism.org.nz/complex-information-requests)

They also have a live chat service available for support. www.altogetherautism.org.nz



Learning to drive was not an easy task. It started with being given a book that made no sense, and questions that I was sure I would not remember the answer to if I were actually in a car. I used online practice tests. I did test after test, and it still wasn't quite enough. The pressure to pass the tests was weighing down on me. Eventually I just had to brute force the test. I went in prepared to take the learner's test multiple times, fortunately it only took me three tries.

There was a bit of a break between getting my learners and my restricted licence. The pressure of getting my learners was so heavy that I didn't want to go any further. I felt I would rather not try than try and fail. My mother criticized me for my speed, and my father chastised me for being too slow.

Fortunately, my parents found me a patient driving instructor who corrected my mistakes without causing me to panic. He even made me laugh, which helped me relax. With his help, I finally passed my restricted license test.

Despite passing my tests, I still felt anxious about driving and doubted my ability to pursue a full license. I even considered staying on a restricted license indefinitely. When I eventually decided to pursue a full license years later, I kept it a secret from my parents, fearful of their pressure. Fortunately, I passed the test on the first try, thanks to my trusty driving instructor's contact information still being saved in my phone.

I'm still not that confident when driving, but I am managing. I've driven to a lot of places with no one guiding me on the way and sometimes I will drive back with no GPS just to see if I could work out where to go from memory. I also got my forklift licence, so even though I'm not the most confident driver, I've still got one more licence than most people have!

Jono Jensen is an Autistic man in his early twenties. He is fortunate to have had the support of his parents who were able to access a professional driving instructor for him. This is not the case for all learner drivers like Jono who need additional support.